

Operation Free Flow

Fact Sheet

Developed by Councilmember Steve Adams, City of Riverside, California

BACKGROUND: The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are America's busiest, receiving half of all international imports to the United States. It's expected that containers moving through Southern California ports will triple from 14 million to 45 million by 2025. Goods movement now provides for more than 550,000 jobs in the region and will create another 1 million jobs if transportation improvements are made.

CHALLENGES: The Inland Empire is one of the most heavily used trade corridors in the nation, almost 75% of all international good coming into the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach pass through Inland Empire railways and freeways to other destinations around the Country, leading to major traffic congestion and air pollution problems.

The City of Riverside is among the most negatively impacted cities in the entire nation.

- 27 different rail crossings, causing commuters to lose 650,000 hours in delays each year
- No revenue or jobs from rail commerce
- Dangerous air particulates pollute the air

Southern California needs \$26 billion for transportation improvements to relieve congestion, including \$3.8 billion in grade separations which allow trains not to disrupt the flow of traffic at busy intersections.

SOLUTIONS: Operation Free Flow offers four steps to help solve the region's transportation crisis:

Step 1: Voluntary Container Premium

Establish a voluntary industry-supported container premium on every ship that comes into the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to be used for funding port-rail expansion and grade separation transportation projects. According to some estimates, in the first year alone the premium would raise \$140 million and increase significantly each year.

Step 2: Utilize Customs Revenue Growth

Utilizing United States Customs duties and fee revenue growth from increased imports would raise \$80 billion alone in 10 years and \$300 billion in 20 years, with no negative impact on currently funded programs, allowing foreign dollars to fund local, regional and national transportation projects.

Step 3: 1984 LA Olympics Model

Take trucks off the road by following the model used during the 1984 Olympics by extending operating hours at ports and warehouses to 24 hours a day. If half the trucks followed this model it would save shippers almost \$7 million a day.

Step 4: Remote Inland Truck Ports

Construct short haul rail lines to transport goods to remote inland truck ports, this would replace existing truck traffic from Southern California ports, improve air quality and take truck traffic off the freeways.

NEXT STEPS:

- Brief manufacturers on benefits of voluntary container premiums
- Form JPA to administer premium
- Demonstrate value of customs revenue utilization to national leaders
- Identify legislators to sponsor Customs revenue utilization bill
- Secure local cities / counties support for night delivery ordinances

For More Information on Operation FreeFlow:

Councilmember Steve Adams, City of Riverside
3900 Main Street • Riverside, CA 92522

<mailto:msadams@riversideca.gov>

(951) 826-5991

<http://www.riversideca.gov/council/ward-7.asp>